

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Changing Role of Women: Timeline Assignment

**Use the information below to help construct an annotated timeline illustrating how women's roles changed throughout the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Socials 11 IRP: "Describe the role of women in terms of social, political, and economic change in Canada. Identify the contributions of women during the wars and to post-war Canada (e.g. Increased industrial capacity, economic growth and employment, changing social attitudes). Identify ways in which women have influenced Canadian society, including suffrage, prohibition, politics, pay and employment equity."

### **World War One: 1914-1918**

Many women volunteered to work overseas

- Primarily as nurses and ambulance drivers (approximately 2500)
- Nurses who served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps were known as "bluebirds" because of their uniform colour
- Many were killed or injured by artillery fire, bombs, and poison gas

On the Home Front the number of women in the labour force increased dramatically

- Canada's wartime economy would have collapsed without their efforts

Women's roles during WW1 strengthened the suffrage movement

- Suffrage = the right for women to vote

The Women's Christian Temperance Union

- Believed alcohol was evil
- Put pressure on the US and Canadian governments to ban production, sale, and consumption of alcohol → prohibition
  - o Rationale: Alcohol led to family abuse, diseases, poverty, child labour etc.
  - o Believed that criminal activities would decline
  - o In reality: Organized crime increased → rum running, bootlegging etc.

In 1918 all Canadian women were given the right to vote in federal elections

## **1920s**

Women enjoyed greater freedom

- Worked jobs formerly held by men
- Fewer clothing restrictions
  - o “shocking” bathing suits and short skirts appeared

Women continued to fight for equal rights

Agnes Macphail became the first female Member of Parliament in 1921

- During the 1930s she called for prison reform

Emily Murphy was the first female judge in the British Empire

- She was challenged in her own court by lawyers who claimed she was not considered a “person” under the British North America Act and thus had no authority

The “Famous Five” challenged the British North America Act’s definition of a “person” in 1927 but the Supreme Court ruled AGAINST them

- Emily Murphy
- Nellie McClung
- Henrietta Muir Edwards
- Louise McKinney
- Irene Parlby

In 1928 The Famous Five appealed to the British Privy Council

In 1929 The Privy Council stated that “persons” included both men AND women

- Women were now considered “people”